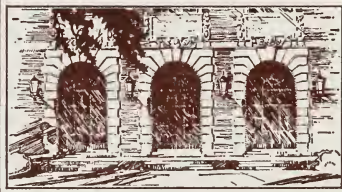


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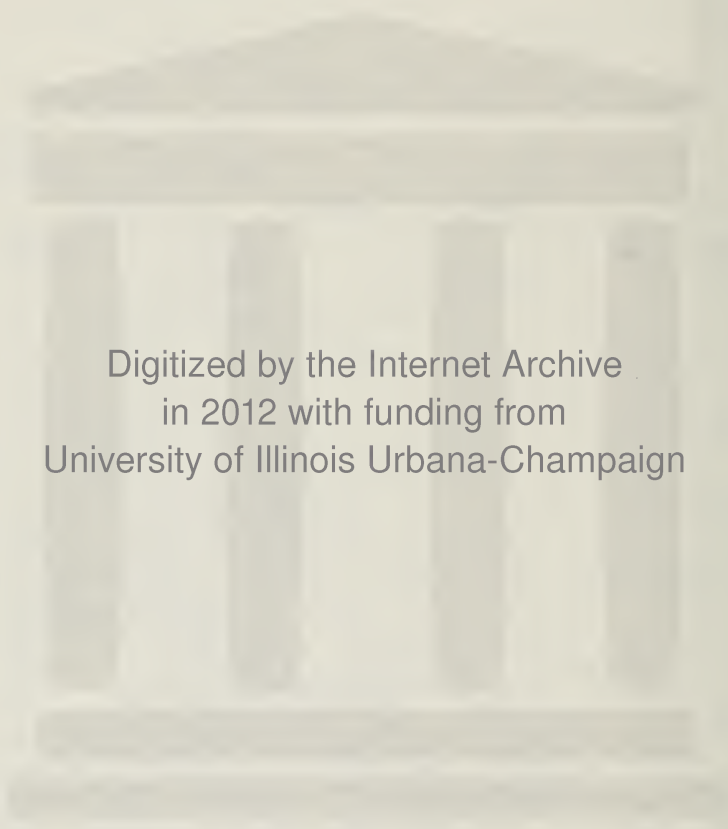
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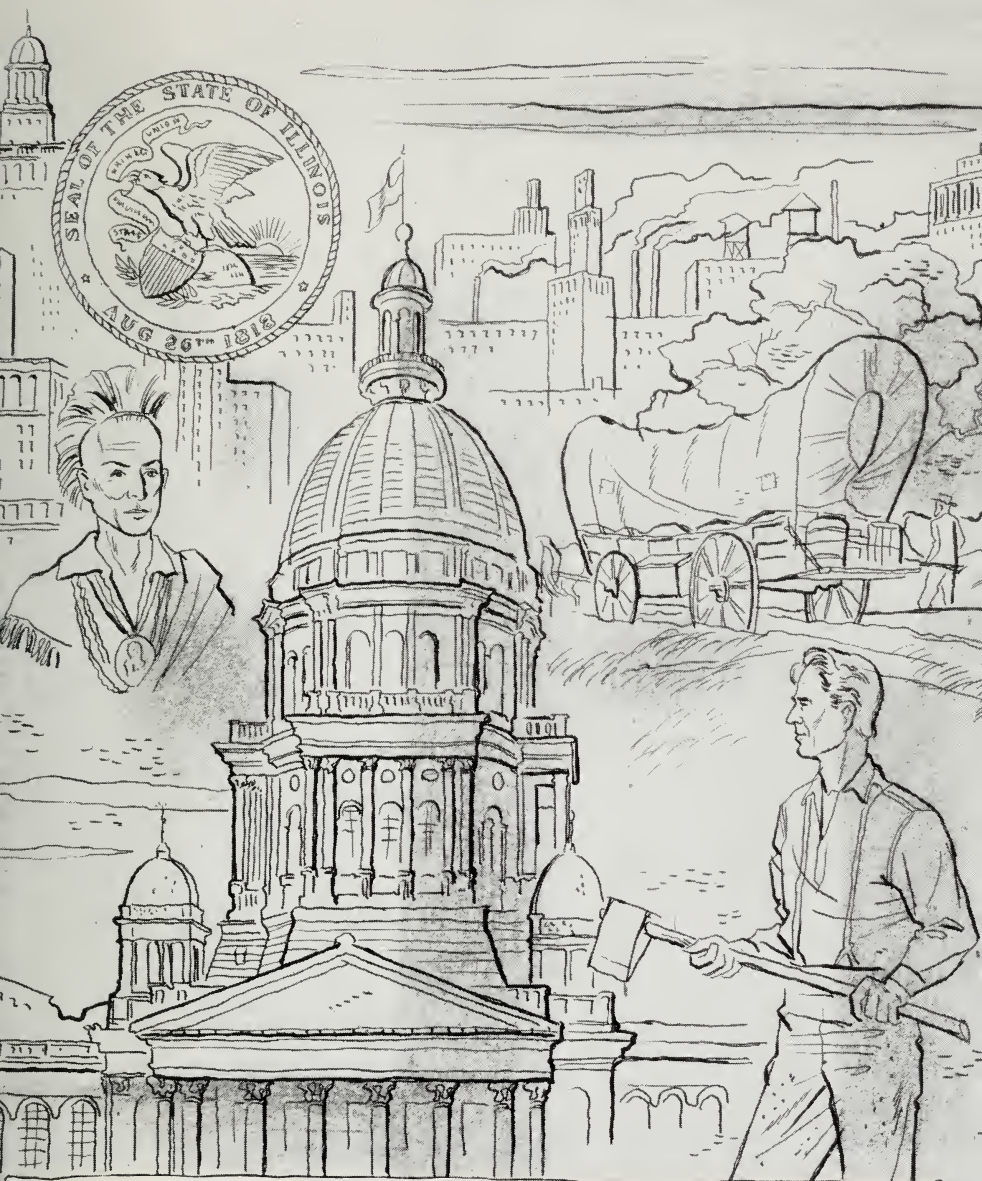
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THE SOVEREIGN STATE OF ILLINOIS



A Short History of a Great State:
Its Geography, Climate, Resources,
and Industries.

Illinois



Garden Spot of the Midlands, Industrial Colossus, “Hog Butcher of the World”

By JAY MONAGHAN

State Historian

THE NORTHERN BORDER of Illinois is in the latitude of Boston and the southern tip reaches as far south as Norfolk, Virginia. Three hundred and eighty-five miles long, the state contains 56,665 square miles. In the springtime there is a difference of almost a month in temperature and plant growth between the northern and the southern limits of the state. Drained by both the Mississippi and the Ohio, with docks for ore boats on Lake Michigan and canals connecting the major waterways, Illinois supports a fleet of inland vessels. Caravans of trucks and passenger cars shuttle to and fro on hard-surfaced roads. In addition, the broad acres are crosshatched with railroad lines.

The Prairie State leads the Midlands in population with half the people in one city—Chicago. Hundreds of thousands of European immigrants came to Illinois both before and after the Civil War to engage in farming, take their places at machines, and at desks and counters in the cities. Soon a fifth of the population was of foreign birth. Thousands of Germans, Irish, and Scandinavians helped to make a great city of Chicago. Later, when immigrants began to arrive from eastern Europe, Chicago became one of the largest Polish cities in the world. The combination of diverse people and the vast natural resources of the state produced wealth at a rate faster than the world had ever known.

Over 85 per cent of the state's area is in cultivation, and 90 per cent of Illinois farms are electrified. Rich black soil produces a cash income of close to two billion dollars annually and farm values are more than two times greater than the average throughout the United States. Hogs are the biggest single source of cash in farmers' pockets, while a large percentage of their dollars comes from corn. In recent years soybeans have been raised in huge quantities, some 82,602,000 bushels in 1949, making Illinois the largest producer in the United States.

In Illinois the per capita wealth, even in the late thirties, was \$2,668. This amounted to 14.3 per cent above the national average. Now the state ranks third in per capita income and its taxes per capita are probably the lowest of any major state. The 1949-1950 budget of over a billion dollars is a 12 per cent increase since World War II but the average increase in other states is 22 per cent. Industrially the state ranks third in the nation. Almost every town has its manufacturing plants. East St. Louis, Alton, Peoria, Rockford, Rock Island, Moline and others throb with industry. A million people are carried on factory pay rolls. Nearly two-thirds of the state is underlaid with coal. From great oil domes in central and southern Illinois, over seventy-five million barrels are pumped annually into the nation's mechanical circulation.

Smokestacks tower above the fertile plain on almost every horizon. Yet, here and there, in bits of rough land along creeks, playgrounds have been set aside by the state. Artificial lakes attract yachtsmen. Fishermen and hunters find plenty of wild life to test their skill. Small game, partridge and other wild fowl are all bagged by sportsmen.

Illinois was the twenty-first state to be admitted into the Union and the last state on the Ohio River to be carved from the country known as the Old



HOGS ARE the largest single source of cash in Illinois farmers' pockets. . . . Fifty-six per cent of the annual value of all Illinois crops comes from corn.

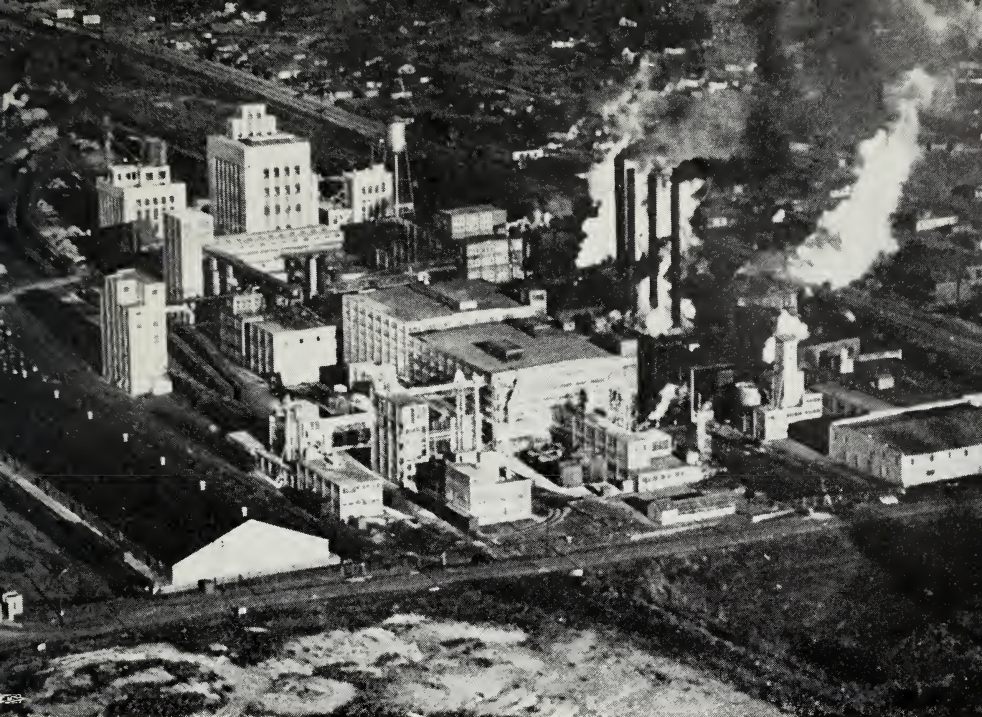
Northwest. The Prairie State joined the Union at a time when the slave and free interests in Congress maintained a balance by admitting first a Southern and then a Northern state. The mixture of people from slave and free territory made the Civil War particularly bitter in Illinois, often pitting brother against brother. And in those critical years the state gave the nation both Lincoln and Grant.

No battles were fought on the state's soil but there were draft riots. Cairo, Alton, Springfield, Rock Island, and Chicago had large prisoner-of-war encampments. Today, after eighty-five years, central Illinois still remains the borderland between remnants of a Northern and a Southern culture. But over-all industrialism and excellent transportation facilities knit the entire state into a uniform fabric of prosperity.

Geography

Known as the Prairie State, Illinois is one of the flattest in the Union. Only Louisiana and Delaware are more nearly level. The average elevation in Illinois is 600 feet above the sea and the plain slopes slightly toward the south and southwest. The northern third of the state was originally rolling prairie with many small lakes in the area west of Lake Michigan. Central Illinois is flat, with unusually rich glacial deposit soil varying from two to a hundred feet in depth. Southern Illinois is hilly and was originally covered with timber. The extreme southern tip of the state reaches down into the Coastal Plain of the Mississippi River Valley. The highest natural elevation may be found in JoDaviess County where a long ridge near the Wisconsin state line reaches an elevation of 1,241 feet. Such uplands make splendid pastures, and northern Illinois is a dairy country famous for its cheese. The flat lands of central Illinois are devoted almost exclusively to grain and hogs. General farming, livestock, orchards, coal mining and oil drilling predominate in southern Illinois. The alluvial soil of the American Bottom along the Mississippi from Alton to Chester has been in cultivation for 200 years and is still as rich as any in the state.

Illinois is exceptionally well watered. Five hundred streams traverse the prairies. The Mississippi, Ohio, Wabash rivers and Lake Michigan partially



IN ILLINOIS, an industrial colossus, almost every town has its manufacturing plants.

A MILLION PEOPLE are carried on factory pay rolls. . . . Nearly two-thirds of the state is underlaid with coal. Deposits are estimated at 200,000,000,000 tons.





MILLIONS OF GALLONS of liquid gold are pumped annually into the nation's mechanical circulation from Illinois' more than 30,461 producing oil wells.

BILLOWING SMOKE STACKS tower above the fertile plain on almost every horizon . . . Yet bits of native ruggedness remain to provide recreation.



bound the state. The Rock, Illinois, Kaskaskia rivers and their tributaries drain interior areas. The larger water courses are skirted by timber-capped bluffs. Some, like the Mississippi Palisades and Starved Rock, measure 150 feet and more in height.

Climate

Illinois climate is notable for extremes. No mountain ranges shelter the state and winds blow straight from the Gulf of Mexico or from the Arctic Circle, bringing alternate hot and cold temperatures. In Cairo, at the southern tip of Illinois, prevailing winds are southerly during all months of the year except February, and southern vegetation, including magnolias and cotton, flourishes. Southerly winds predominate as far north as Springfield from April to January making the fall of the year pleasant sometimes as late as Christmas, but a sudden change to frigid weather may be expected after that date. Throughout the northern part of the state, except along Lake Michigan, winds usually blow out of the west and northwest from October to March, bringing cold winters. Even in summer, northern Illinois is tempered by winds from the high plains of the West.

The coldest weather ever recorded in Illinois was thirty-five degrees below zero at Mt. Carroll in 1930. The hottest temperature of record was one hundred and fifteen degrees at Greenville in 1936. The annual precipitation is about forty-two inches in southern Illinois. This amount of rainfall becomes less and less in northern parts of the state. Along the Wisconsin border fewer than thirty-four inches are likely to fall during a year. Throughout Illinois high winds and tornadoes are not uncommon especially on hot days in the early spring.

Population

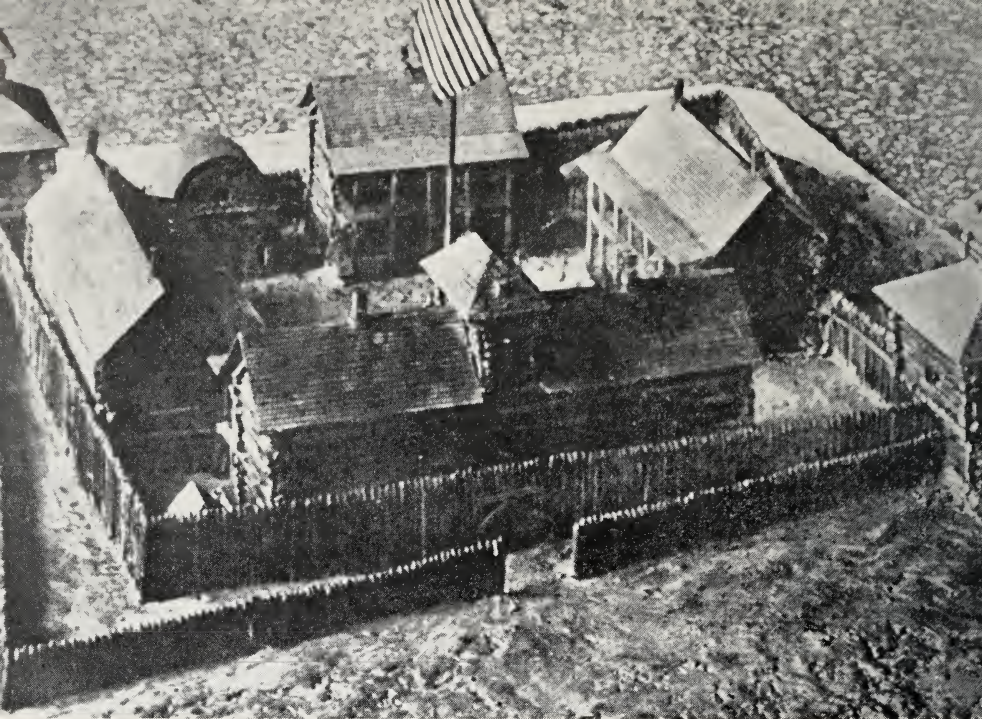
Illinois, with the fourth largest population among the states, is exceeded only by New York, Pennsylvania, and California. In 1850, Illinois ranked eleventh. In 1860 the state took its place as fourth and in 1890 it became third. This startling growth has occurred within three generations. The French and their Negro slaves who came to Illinois in the first half of the eighteenth century probably numbered about 2,000. One man alone owned eighty slaves in 1765. To the wilderness the French brought a continental culture. A few grandees lived in crude splendor among Negroes, half-breeds, and peasant folk. A happy, docile, religious people, the French clustered around their churches in the wilderness, tilled small farms, pastured geese and cows on the village commons and traded peacefully with the Indians. Pioneers from east of the Alleghenies and from Kentucky soon came to these quaint hamlets, but a century elapsed before the population became distinctly American.

Before admission to the Union in 1818 the northern boundary of the territory was extended sixty miles to include settlers around the lead mines at Galena and thus inadvertently was added the strip along Lake Michigan where Chicago stands today. The mouth of the Chicago River would otherwise have been in Wisconsin. Even with the population at the mines Illinois had difficulty mustering sufficient people for statehood and passing travelers are said to have been included in the count.

The first large immigration to Illinois floated down the Ohio River. These people were generally Southerners in sympathy and nativity. After the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825 New Englanders flooded the northern part of the state. In 1830 the population numbered 157,445. Two years later the Black Hawk War expelled the last Indians and opened vast areas for settlement.

Many immigrants came from the Middle Atlantic States as well as from New England and the South. Others came from Europe—especially England, Ireland and Germany. The most famous of the English settlements—and one of the earliest in the state—was located in Edwards County. Here well-to-do Britishers came as early as 1817 and selected land, later known as English Prairie. People of refinement and intelligence, they left a mark on the community that remains to this day.

At Belleville, near St. Louis, educated Germans founded a town and bought farms. Exiles from the fatherland, they were called the "Latin peasants." Many of the Irish came as laborers on the famous Illinois and Michigan Canal. By 1850, when the federal census first analyzed the population, Illinois was



IN 1850, Illinois ranked eleventh in population—now it is fourth. Growth of Chicago, the "Windy City" from Fort Dearborn (above), in the early 1800's to the present throbbing metropolis of nearly 4,000,000 persons (below), is typical of the state as a whole.



almost as diverse in nationality as it was half a century later. By 1860 the population numbered 1,711,951.

After the Civil War, Illinois prospered with expanding industries. During the 1870's and 1880's thousands more immigrated to the state. The 1880 census recorded a total population of 3,077,871 and by 1900 this had grown to 4,821,550. The next decade saw this number swell to 5,638,591 and today it is over eight million. The state's population is more than 70 per cent urban.

The growth of the "Windy City" is as remarkable as that of the entire state. It began with a few shacks built by half-breeds at the canoe portage between Lake Michigan and the Mississippi. After the Louisiana Purchase in 1803 President Jefferson erected Fort Dearborn at the mouth of the Chicago River as part of the frontier defense of the new western domain. A year later John Kinzie, "the father of Chicago," built a house outside the stockade. Fort Dearborn was destroyed by Indians sympathizing with the British in the War of 1812, but was rebuilt at the close of hostilities. The city's first great growth commenced when vast land areas were opened after the Black Hawk War. In 1833 the population numbered 350. By 1837 it had reached 4,170 and by 1850 it numbered 30,000. Ten years later this figure had jumped to 110,000. Thereafter the number pyramided, decade by decade, until Chicago became the second largest city in America, with approximately four million inhabitants.

Agriculture

Agriculture and industry go hand in hand in Illinois. In 1837 John Deere perfected a plow in Grand Detour that would turn prairie sod. Ten years later he had established his plant in Moline. In 1847, also, Cyrus McCormick began manufacturing reapers in large quantities in Chicago. By 1850 Illinois had become a leading agricultural state. Today it ranks first in the production of soybeans, first in the production of hybrid seed corn, and in the cash value of all feed grains. Only Iowa produces more field corn but Illinois gets a larger average acre-production of this crop than her sister across the Mississippi. Some Illinois fields produce well above 100 bushels of corn per acre. The agricultural college of the state university, agrarian agencies, and scientific surveys keep farmers posted on the latest technical discoveries and scientific methods of farming.

JOHN DEERE perfected the plow in 1837, a decade later Cyrus McCormick began manufacturing reapers, and today more soybeans are combined in Illinois than in any other state in the Union—more than 82,000,000 bushels in 1949.



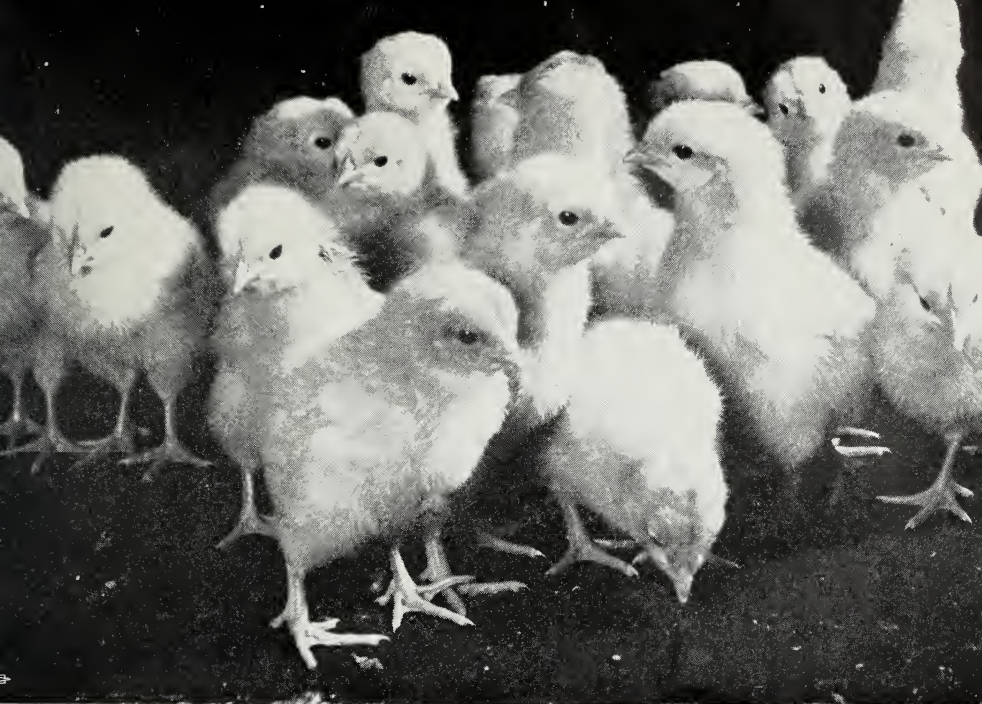


TOURISTS FEAST their eyes upon the enchanting beauty of blossoming orchards in springtime—the promise of an abundance of luscious fruit. Illinois annually grows millions of bushels of apples and peaches.



DAIRY COWS produce milk valued at more than \$175,000,000 and Illinois' sanitary dairy laws have been adopted as a model by numerous other states.





MILLIONS OF BABY CHICKS are shipped to all parts of the continent from some of the largest hatcheries in the world. Illinois commercially produced 100,000,000 in 1949.

Illinois farmers also raise great quantities of oats, rye, wheat, apples, peaches, melons, cattle, swine, sheep, and poultry. The annual gross value of milk produced in Illinois amounted to \$174,647,000 (1949). The state ranks second in the production of cheese, and Illinois laws and regulations governing its preparation are used as models by other states. Cotton is grown annually on from 3,000 to 6,000 acres of Illinois land.

Illinois has a total farm acreage of 31,602,186 divided into 204,239 home-steads. No other state has such a large proportion of cultivated land. General farming has become a business and farmers must be skilled mechanics in order to operate their tractors, combines, and corn pickers efficiently. Internal combustion motors and electric dynamos furnish the necessary power. Many farms do not keep a single horse.

Mines and Minerals

Nearly two-thirds of Illinois is underlaid with coal. The deposits are estimated at 200 billion tons, enough to supply the entire world for the next 130 years. Illinois has 337 active mines. Coal is often dug with electric-powered shovels and loaded directly onto trucks. The largest shaft mine in the world is operated in Franklin County, heart of the southern Illinois coal region.

Also under the state's surface is a vast reservoir of oil. Around sixty-five million barrels of this liquid gold are pumped annually from 30,161 wells. Other mineral deposits include silica, commercial clays, sand, gravel, limestone, lead, zinc, and silver. The greatest fluorspar mines in the world are in southern Illinois. Great quantities of cement are prepared in Illinois plants.

An abundance of surface and underground water adjacent to great beds of bituminous coal makes possible the production of cheap electrical power. The total capacity of the state's generating plants exceeds 3,000,000 kilowatts.

Industry and Trade

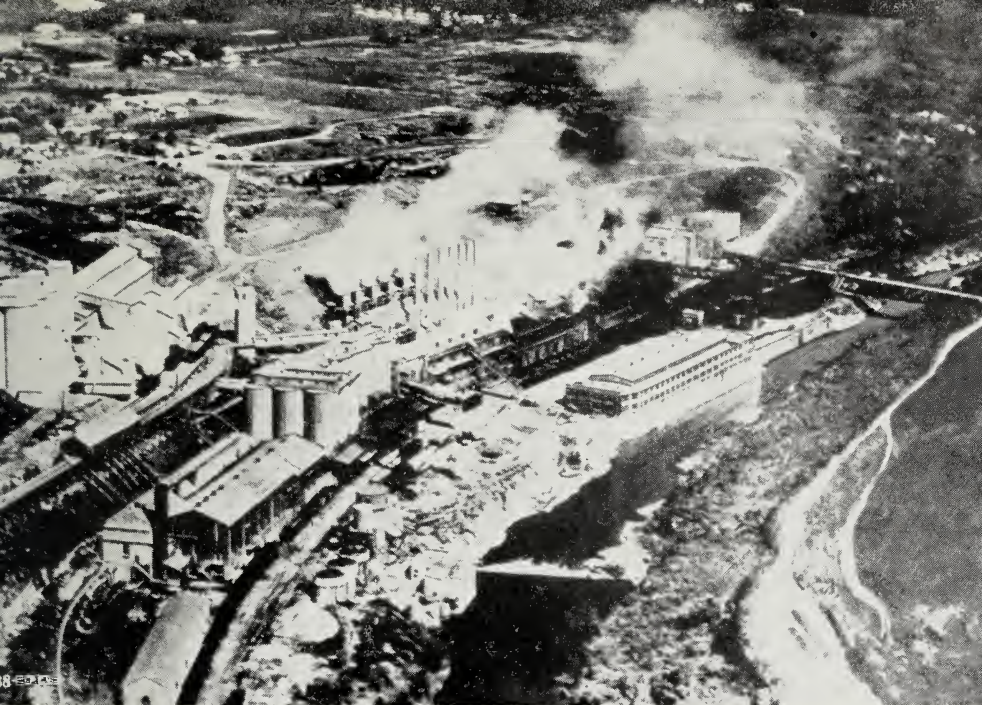
More than five billion dollars worth of manufactured goods roll annually from Illinois plants. First of all states in the Middle West, Illinois ranks third



THE STATE has more than 330 active coal mines, including the largest in the world—the new Orient number 2, in Franklin County, pictured in the background.

EIGHTY PER CENT of all fluorspar mined in the nation comes from southern Illinois.





ILLINOIS POSSESSES many valuable and extensive mineral deposits. Among the products turned out in quantity is cement in plants similar to the one above.

A VAST RESERVOIR of gas found in subterranean pools and a 3,000,000 kilowatt electric generating capacity provide power, heat and light for farm and city.





THE CHICAGO INDUSTRIAL area leads the world in steel making. It now produces nearly twenty per cent of the nation's output. Much heavy equipment is produced here.



CHICAGO'S FAMED stockyards are the largest in the world. The city's huge packing industry processes nearly half a billion dollars worth of animal products annually.

in the nation in the value of her manufactured goods. Chicago's packing industry leads the world with half a billion dollars in animal products annually. Illinois also ranks first in the manufacture of agricultural machinery. Such names as John Deere, Moline, and McCormick are as synonymous throughout the United States for plows and reapers as Winchester is for a rifle. Among the leading industries, in addition to the above, are Diesel locomotives, Pullman cars, radio tubes, phonographs, steam fittings, electrical appliances, roofing, tinware, iron and steel forgings, coin-operated machines, surgical supplies, orthopedic appliances, soybean oil and meal, coal tar products, printing presses, printing ink, laundry equipment, yeast, and baking powder.

Nine Largest Cities

CHICAGO: Second largest city in America, and eighth in the world, Chicago lives up to its civic motto, "I WILL." Metropolitan in every aspect, the "Windy City" combines trade, manufacturing, and finance with education and fine arts. Railroad center of the nation, this gigantic metropolis supports several superb universities in addition to museums, art galleries, conservatories, zoological gardens, and an aquarium. Adler Planetarium, constructed in 1930, was the first building of its kind in the Western Hemisphere. Chicago is the largest cut flower market in the world. The Union Stockyards and the adjacent packing plants combine to form the greatest meat center in the world.

CICERO: A suburb of Chicago, this manufacturing city maintains more than a hundred industrial plants. Saws, castings and forgings, building material, and telephone equipment are made here. The city was notorious half a century ago for the speculations of Hetty Green, and later as the headquarters of Al Capone. Today the J. Sterling Morton High School is famous among educators for its advanced methods of instruction.

DECATUR: A college town in the heart of the state's richest agricultural region, Decatur is highly industrialized, manufacturing everything from steel girders to the latest perfection in fly-swatters. The largest industrial plant in the city is the A. B. Staley Manufacturing Company which processes corn and soybeans. The Wabash Railroad shops employ the second largest number of workers.

EAST ST. LOUIS: This industrial metropolis contains stockyards second only to Chicago. Steel mills, glass, and aluminum plants, river-front docks and railroad yards enrich the city.

EVANSTON: A northern suburb of Chicago, on Lake Michigan, this cultural center is dominated by Northwestern University. Fine stores and residences, the parks and boulevard along the lake, make life luxurious.

OAK PARK: The largest community with a village form of government in the United States, Oak Park is another suburb of Chicago. Known in the 1890's as "Saint's Rest" the village numbers among its residents, past and present, an unusually large percentage of people cited in *Who's Who*. Here once lived Frank Lloyd Wright, Ernest Hemingway, William E. and Bruce Barton, and half a dozen others.

PEORIA: Second largest city in Illinois, located in the heart of the corn belt, Peoria produces more spirituous liquors than any other city in the United States. Distilleries predominate but cheap water transportation, fourteen railroads, and a large population of skilled workers have attracted two hundred other industrial enterprises.

ROCKFORD: Third largest city in the state, Rockford is preeminently a manufacturing city. Agricultural implements and furniture are among its leading industries. With a population composed largely of Swedes, Irish, and Italians, the city is famous for musical activities.

SPRINGFIELD: The state capital supports big hotels for the accommodation of legislators, conventions, and the traveling public. A large proportion of the population is employed by the state but factories, a giant flour mill, several banking, loan and insurance companies all add to the city's prosperity. Coal mines surround Springfield. Hundreds of farmers drive to the city weekly to make purchases. Over fifty thousand school children come to the capital annually and over a million tourists visit Lincoln's home, his tomb, the old Capitol where he practiced law and the reconstructed pioneer village of New Salem, twenty-two miles away. The Illinois State Museum and the State Library attract an endless procession of sightseers. The State Historical Library houses



SPRINGFIELD, the state capital, has many industrial plants, and is business center of a large farming area.

one of the largest Lincoln collections in the world. Writers in this field travel annually to Springfield from all parts of the United States to consult the source material to be found here.

Great manufacturing enterprises center in other Illinois cities such as Alton, Aurora, Bloomington, Danville, Elgin, Freeport, Galesburg, Joliet, Kankakee, Moline, Quincy, and Rock Island.

Transportation

The central location of Illinois and its high degree of industrialization combine to give it exceptional opportunities for transportation. In the earliest times the state's inland streams served trapper and trader. For a hundred years great quantities of bulk freight moved south on the Ohio, the Mississippi, and the Wabash. During the first half of the nineteenth century canals were built to connect the Great Lakes with the Mississippi. Today Illinois has 1,068 miles of waterways, and Chicago claims to be the world's greatest inland port.

Railroad construction began a decade before the Civil War and by 1870 Illinois had more track mileage than any other state. Chicago became the

ILLINOIS' FIRST RAILROADS were built a century ago.





ILLINOIS LEADS in heavy duty railway mileage. Chicago became the world's greatest railway terminal eighty years ago and continues to hold that distinction today.

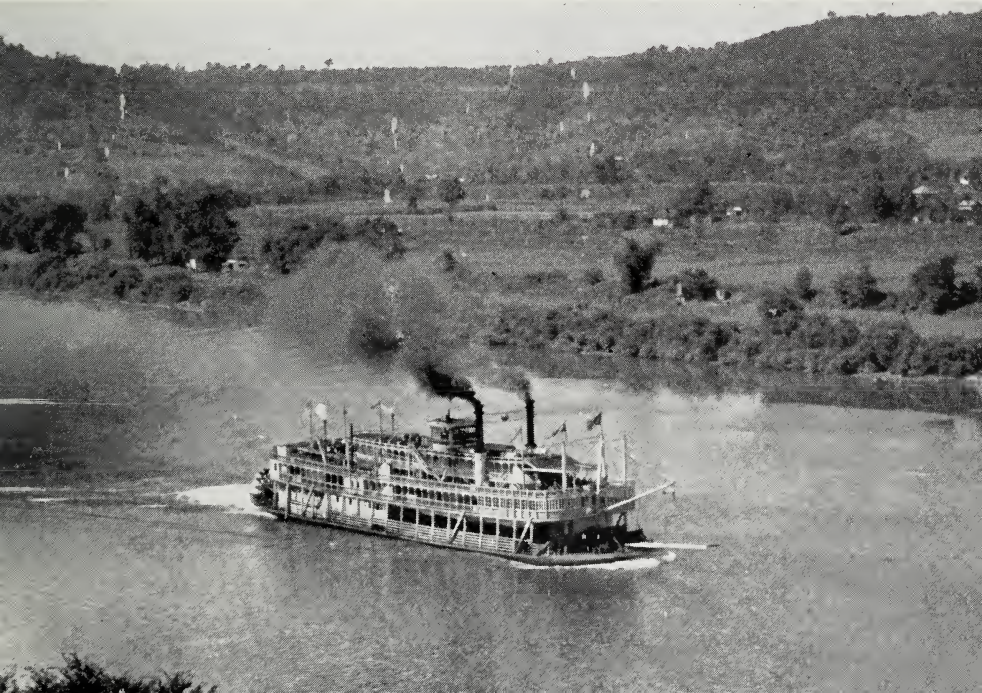
ILLINOIS MAKES more Diesel locomotives than any other state in the Union.





MORE THAN 12,000 miles of hard roads crisscross every county and form a comprehensive highway system long enough to extend nearly half way around the world.

THE FIRST EXPLORERS traveled by water and today Illinois' thousands of miles of waterways still form an important link in the state's transportation system.



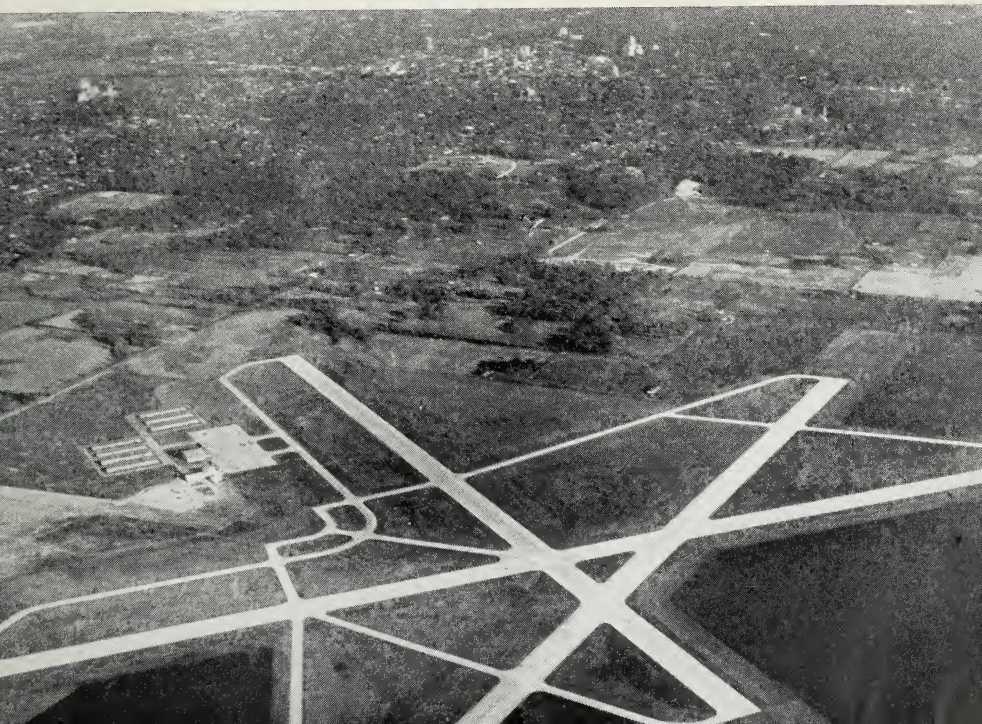


OIL, ORE, and grain boats make Chicago a leading inland port.



ILLINOIS HAS set a pace for development of aviation and is a world air center.

SPRINGFIELD'S million-and-a-half dollar airport is one of 167 commercial fields that form a network throughout the state. Nearly all cities have air facilities.



world's greatest railroad terminal eighty years ago and has held the distinction to this day. The state also has 12,000 miles of heavy-duty highways—enough to reach nearly half way around the world.

Many airlines also converge in Illinois. Chicago has established one of the great air centers of the world. A million-and-a-half-dollar airport attracts planes to Springfield. Almost all sizeable downstate cities have their own public or private airports, and some progressive farmers keep a plane behind the barn.

Educational Opportunities

Illinois supports six state universities and colleges. Northern Illinois State Teachers' College is located at DeKalb; Western Illinois State College at Macomb. Eastern Illinois State College is in Charleston, and Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. The oldest of them all, Illinois State Normal University, was founded in 1857 at Normal in McLean County (and since that date has enrolled more than 60,000 students). The University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana is the third largest university in the United States with a 1949 registration of over 28,000. The University is composed of many colleges including Liberal Arts, Commerce and Business Administration, Engineering, Agriculture, Education, Fine and Applied Arts, and Law. There is also a School of Journalism, a School of Physical Education, and a Library School. Branches of the University located in Chicago include the University's Medical, Dental, and Pharmacy colleges. Twelve per cent of the enrollment comes from outside the state and 30 per cent from the Chicago area.

The percentage of literacy in Illinois is unusually high. Schools are plentiful and well attended. Probably only three per cent of the entire population of the state have had no education, while at least 80 per cent have completed grade school. Twenty-four per cent of all adults above 25 years of age have a high school education and four per cent have completed college or university courses.

Many private institutions of higher learning rank with the best in the United States. The academic policies and research achievements of these universities and colleges are watched throughout the educational world. The largest of such privately endowed institutions in Illinois are Northwestern University and the University of Chicago.

ILLINOIS SUPPORTS six state universities and colleges. The University of Illinois, one of the world's great educational institutions, is the third largest in the United States.





SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, at Carbondale.

PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS such as Northwestern University (left below), and Chicago University (right below), rank with the best in the United States.



Playground of the Middle West

Lake Michigan, two great rivers, the Mississippi and Ohio, together with many small streams and lakes combine to make Illinois a boatman's paradise. Every year more than 5,000,000 tourists visit the state's sixty recreational and historical parks and memorials. These playgrounds vary in scenic interest from the sylvan beauty of White Pines Forest State Park in Ogle County to the grotesque formations at Cave-In-Rock and Giant City in southern Illinois. Anglers find game fish in Apple River Canyon State Park, Chain O' Lakes, and other scenic spots. All summer long, canoeists flock to Kankakee River State Park and thousands of bathers bask on the sands of Lake Michigan at Illinois Beach State Park. Every summer Chicago yachtsmen hold a famous 333-mile race to Mackinac Island. City people who crave a week-end of relaxation in the country motor to P  re Marquette, White Pines, Giant City, or Starved Rock state parks to live luxuriously in rustic lodges furnished like the finest tourist attractions in the Rockies.

In various locations archaeologists have excavated the village and burial sites of prehistoric men. Some of these are open to the public. The most notable are the Cahokia and Dickson mounds.

Relics of Illinois during the French period are preserved at Fort Massac, Cahokia, and Fort Chartres. In central Illinois many Lincoln shrines commemorate the days when Father Abraham rode the old Eighth Judicial Circuit. At Springfield the Lincoln residence, furnished much as it was before the Civil War, is open daily to visitors. In Coles County a state park contains a replica of the Goose Nest Prairie homestead of the Lincoln family. On the site of the first Lincoln home in Illinois—the place in Macon County where young Lincoln lived during the winter of the deep snow, 1830-1831—a picnic ground is maintained by the state. Here Lincoln did the rail splitting that later gave him his nickname. During the winter Lincoln froze his feet and a neighbor rubbed them with grease, "groun' hog ile" perhaps, to draw out the frost. In the spring, Lincoln floated down the Sangamon to find romance and adventure at New Salem—now reconstructed as a state park. Lincoln lived here from 1831 to 1837. The village appears today much as it did in Lincoln's time.

THE FINEST WATERFOWL hunting grounds in the nation are found along the Mississippi and Illinois river bottoms, and rabbits abound throughout the state.





FISHERMEN FIND ILLINOIS lakes and rivers well stocked with bass, crappies, bluegills, trout and catfish. Each acre of water supports an average 500 pounds of fish.

On Rock Island a block house reminds sightseers of the Black Hawk War. In the woods on the mainland a museum contains authentic Indian lodges, artifacts, and handicrafts. In Lowden Memorial Park a statue forty-eight feet high depicts Lorado Taft's conception of an Illinois aborigine.

Sportsmen will find excellent shooting in Illinois. Ring-neck pheasants range in the upper third of the state. Quail or bobwhites inhabit the southern two-thirds. A few prairie chickens can still be found but these rare birds are protected at all times. Wood ducks nest along the river bottoms and migratory wild fowl come by tens of thousands down the fly-ways every fall. The state maintains a large feeding ground for Canada geese near Cairo. Thirty to forty thousand honkers winter there annually. Hunters sometimes get their legal kill within twenty minutes after the season opens. Rabbits and squirrels may be found in abundance in all parts of the state. Along the brushy bottoms of the Illinois River deer are increasing but there is no open season for hunting them.

Mink, muskrat, gray and red foxes may all be found in Illinois. Raccoon, opossum, and skunk are common. A few coyotes—called wolves—are killed every year. For more than a century Illinois farmers have held community wolf hunts in which several hundred people circle a designated area and close in, shooting the foxes or wolves that happen to be caught inside.

Among the commonest fish are bass, crappies, bluegills, sunfish, brown trout, channel catfish, bullheads, shovel-bill cats, buffalo, and sturgeon.

The state's Conservation Department estimates that every acre of Illinois water supports an average of 500 pounds of fish.

Athletic contests, horse racing, and society horse shows are popular in Illinois. Blue ribbon saddle horses are raised for pleasure by many Illinois farmers. Practically every county seat holds horse shows. These are known as the "leaky roof circuit." Running races at Fairmount near East St. Louis and many large Chicago parks attract thousands annually. Sulky races are more popular in rural areas. The bluest blood in the equine world competes for trotting awards at the Illinois State Fair. Here the great Hambletonian Greyhound twice established a world's record for trotting a mile.



ON HOT SUMMER days, visitors flock to Lake Michigan beaches by the thousands.

SAILING AND CANOEING are favorite sports on the smaller lakes and rivers . . . while everywhere lush green fairways delight the golfer and provide recreation.





ILLINOIS BASEBALL FANS enjoy the finest accommodations in the nation when they visit the home grounds of the Chicago major league clubs.

MORE THAN 100,000 can attend civic events and athletic contests at Soldier Field, the gigantic amphitheater in Grant Park on Chicago's lake front.



Baseball also attracts thousands of Illinois fans. Farm boys practice bouncing "fielders" off barn roofs. Every county town has its "nine," and Chicago ranks as one of the great baseball cities of the nation. Charles A. Comiskey, a Chicagoan by birth, opened Comiskey Park for his White Sox in 1910. The stands seated 28,500 spectators. Seven years later the park was enlarged to accommodate 32,000. No city in the United States with the exception of Boston offered fans more adequate seating arrangements. For the National League the Cubs park was established in 1916. This team was purchased by William Wrigley, Jr., and from 1923 to 1927 the ball club's stadium was rebuilt into Wrigley Field—reputed to be one of the most luxurious baseball fields in the world. The club is now owned and operated by William Wrigley, Jr.'s son, Philip K. Wrigley.

In 1922 work was begun on a classic stadium in Grant Park known as Soldier Field. Seating over 100,000 this gigantic amphitheater has been used for mass civic demonstrations as well as for athletic events. Ice hockey is also popular with followers of professional athletics. The Chicago Black Hawks won the coveted international Stanley Cup in 1934 and again in 1938.

Historical Background

The number of Indians who originally inhabited Illinois can only be surmised. The aboriginal population varied greatly at different times. Plagues, famines and war continually offset the periodic increase of bountiful seasons. An unusually large population must have resided in parts of the state when the Indian Mounds were built. Archaeologists disagree on the means by which so many workers were fed. The tillable land in the areas around the mounds today does not support sufficient people to erect such pyramids. This advanced aboriginal culture is believed to have disappeared about 1500.

The first Europeans who came to the Illinois country recorded no vestige of the once teeming population. They found Indians of the Algonquian family known as the Illini. These red men had completely forgotten the Mound Builders' culture and lived a semi-nomadic life of hunting and fishing. A few simple crops like corn and squash supplemented their meager diet. Tribal organization was weak. The various communities belonged to a loose confederation with no centralized authority or control. In time of crisis chieftains or medicine men set themselves up as emergency leaders and harangued for

ILLINOIS WAS INDIAN COUNTRY until early in the nineteenth century.





LARGE-SCALE immigration began soon after the War of 1812.

all the followers available. The largest Illini Indian encampments were known as Kaskaskia, Cahokia, Michigamea, Peoria, and Tamaroa. The Sioux, the Foxes, and the Iroquois waged almost continual war on the Illini, and after the Iroquois Indians acquired firearms from the Dutch and English on the Hudson River the fight became a massacre. By 1750 only 1,500 to 2,000 Illini remained. Two decades later these were reduced to a handful who took refuge in the French village of Kaskaskia. The vast area of deserted river and prairie was occupied immediately by the Sauk and Foxes, the Kickapoo and Potawatomi.

The first white men who described Illinoi to the European world were Père Marquette and Louis Jolliet, a Jesuit priest and a trader, who floated down the Mississippi to the Arkansas in 1673 and returned to Canada by way of the Illinois River and Lake Michigan. Next year Marquette founded a mission at an Indian village near Starved Rock.

Sieur de la Salle and his lieutenant, Henri de Tonti, "the man with the iron hand," came from Canada to Lake Peoria early in 1680 and built Fort Crève Coeur only to abandon it within a few months. But they determined to return and in 1682 they built Fort St. Louis on Starved Rock—a fort which would remain for a generation. The grandee La Salle did not stay long in Illinois but Tonti spent years in the forts founded by his superior, trading with the Indians and bringing French settlers from Canada. Louis Hennepin, La Salle's chaplain, became famous for his writings about these settlements.

After the death of Père Marquette in 1675 his mission on the Illinois River was taken over by Père Claude Jean Allouez, one of the most famous Jesuits of the Illinois country. He is said to have converted and baptized some ten thousand Indians before he died in 1689.

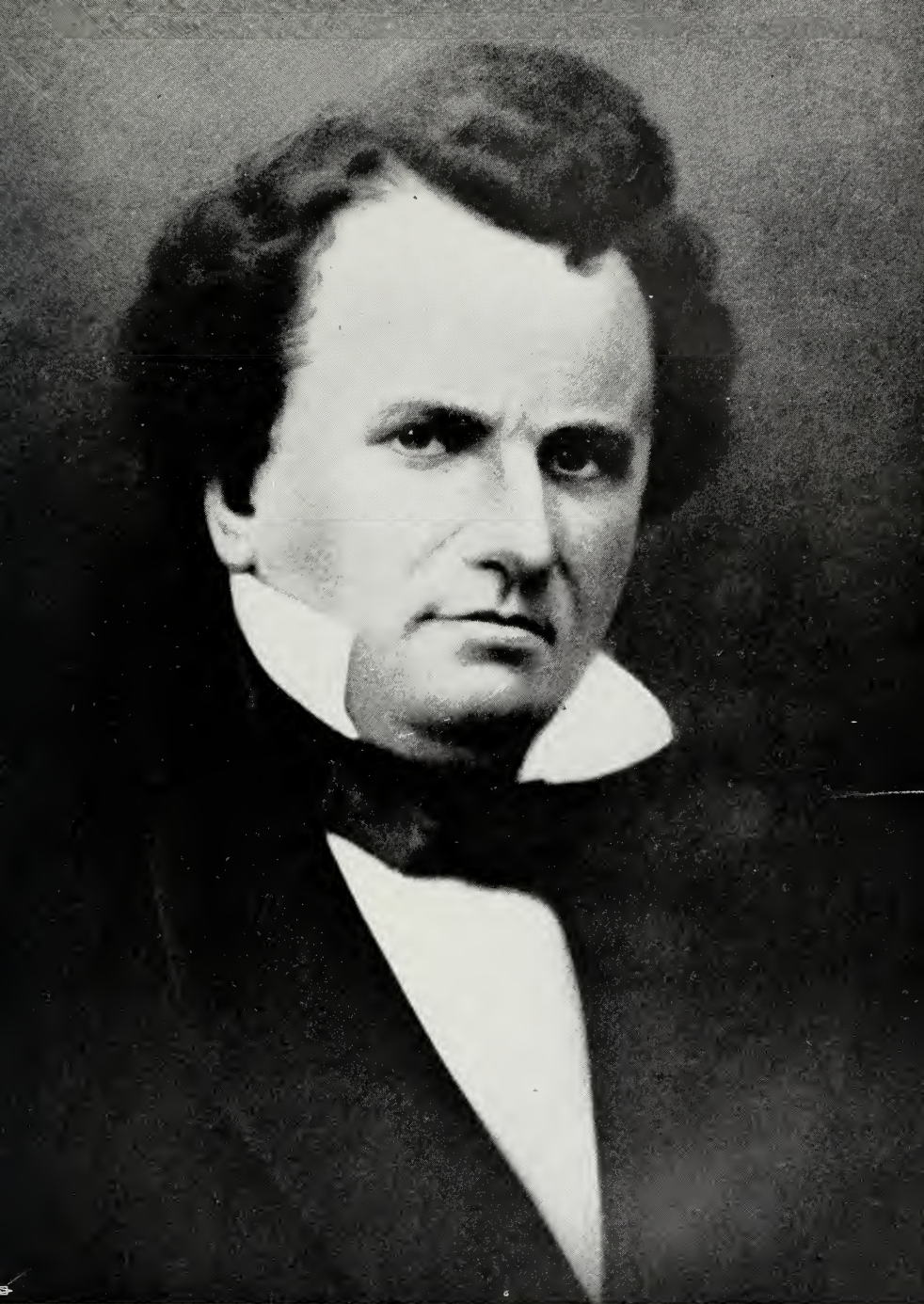
In 1699 a mission church was established at Cahokia—the first permanent white settlement in the Mississippi Valley. For a quarter of a century thereafter Canadians settled in the Illinois country at Kaskaskia, Prairie du Rocher, St. Philippe, Fort Chartres, and Cahokia. The total population in the French period was always small but the farms on the fertile American Bottom supplied an amazing amount of grain that was shipped to military posts on the Ohio and as far away as New Orleans and Canada.



SLAVERY CAUSED much bitter controversy in the new state. In 1837, a mob killed Abolitionist-Editor Elijah Lovejoy after destroying several of his presses in Alton.

CANALS FORMED essential transportation in early days of railroad construction.





STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS, the Little Giant, is remembered as a great statesman. During the presidential campaign of 1860, when Lincoln's election seemed a certainty, Douglas made a gallant attempt to prevent the South from seceding.



ABRAHAM LINCOLN, Illinois' most illustrious son, lies buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery, at Springfield. More books have been written about him than any other American. Many famous artists and sculptors have portrayed his likeness. But so great was Lincoln's character that new artistic and literary interpretations appear annually.

Rivalry with British settlers east of the Alleghenies began almost at once. The struggle between France and England for world dominion lasted half a century. In Illinois Louis XV built Fort Chartres in 1720 and twice rebuilt it. To protect the Illinois country during the French and Indian War Louis also rebuilt the stockade at Fort Kaskaskia—but primarily for defense against the Indians. On the Ohio River just below the mouths of the Cumberland and Tennessee rivers the French built Fort Massac to check British colonials and their Indian allies in Kentucky and to protect French communication with Canada. These posts all fell to Britain by the Treaty of Paris in 1763 but Pontiac's Rebellion prevented the formal surrender of Fort Chartres until 1765.

For a little over a decade Britain ruled the Illinois country, then, during the Revolution, it was captured by George Rogers Clark with 175 men. This conquest was not mentioned in the treaty of peace but the thirteen colonies were given a western boundary along the Mississippi which included the territory Clark had occupied. Organized first as a county of Virginia but later abandoned, Illinois had no government for a period of five years. In 1790 Governor Arthur St. Clair came to Kaskaskia and set up a territorial court. A decade later, when the population of the Illinois country consisted of approximately 2,500 Americans and French, the Territory of Indiana was established with Illinois inside its boundaries. In 1809 Illinois Territory was created and Ninian Edwards was appointed governor. Large-scale immigration did not commence until immediately after the War of 1812. By 1818 the area, claiming between 30,000 and 35,000 souls, was admitted to the Union. The first three state governors—Shadrach Bond, Edward Coles, and Ninian Edwards—were Southern gentlemen of the old school. The first two held office at a time when people believed that Illinois would become a slave state but a decisive vote in 1824 banished that idea permanently. Coles was a leader in the fight against slavery in Illinois.

In 1830 John Reynolds became governor. A Jacksonian man of the people, very different from his predecessor, the Old Ranger mingled with frontiersmen on their own terms. During his administration the Black Hawk War occurred and the last Indian was driven out of Illinois, opening all the land to white settlement. The newcomers clamored for roads and canals. A furor for internal improvements started. This, together with wildcat banking, ended in the Panic of 1837.

Governor Thomas Ford (1842-1846) saved the state from bankruptcy. With heavy taxation he pushed work on the Illinois and Michigan Canal which in 1848 was opened to traffic and became profitable at once. In 1848, too, a railroad started operation on ten miles of track out of Chicago. This was the initial step in the rivalry between rail and water transportation that eventually made Chicago, instead of St. Louis, the commercial center of the Midlands.

In 1860 Abraham Lincoln was elected President and the Southern states began to secede, claiming that he and his party would confiscate their slave property. Illinois, especially in the southern sections, had many people sympathetic with the slaveholders. Stephen A. Douglas, John A. Logan, and John M. Palmer all exerted their energy to hold Illinois loyal to the Union cause. Ulysses S. Grant, a graduate of West Point and a resident of Galena, joined the army. Governor Richard Yates even went so far as to adjourn the General

ALTHOUGH GENERAL ULYSSES S. GRANT was Illinois' most famous soldier in the Civil War, there were many many others from the Prairie State.



Assembly and thus prevent legislation by a majority which he feared might check the war effort.

After the Civil War Illinois entered its greatest period of development. Rapidly expanding railroads began to use steel instead of iron rails. Chicago rolling mills were the first in the United States to supply this new demand. Soon the entire smelting industry was revolutionized. The coming of railroads also opened markets for agricultural products, and farmers in turn purchased more John Deere steel plows and McCormick binders. By 1870 Illinois ranked first among all the states in the volume of its corn and hogs and second in wheat.

Coal, originally discovered by French explorers, assumed continually mounting importance as the state became industrialized. The output increased four-fold in the Civil War decade. Factory after factory sprang into existence. The National Watch Company, later known as the Elgin National Watch Company, was founded. Big pottery ovens began operation at Peoria. At Irving cast-iron stoves were manufactured on a large scale. At Chicago the Union Stockyards reached gigantic proportions. The Chicago fire in 1871 failed to check the expansion. Instead, a new market was opened for materials to rebuild the city.

With great industrial growth came growing pains which included the Haymarket Riot in 1886 and the Pullman strike in 1893. Governor John P. Altgeld (1893-1897), first foreign-born governor, is remembered for his pardon of the surviving Haymarket rioters and his opposition to the federal troops sent to quell the Pullman strikers. Twenty years later Governor Frank O. Lowden (1917-1921) achieved signal success in reorganizing the state government and consolidating the entangled boards and commissions.

The state's miraculous growth has always been too fast for legislative control. The constitution of 1818 was replaced by a new organic act in 1848. Another was framed in 1862 but was rejected by the people. In 1870 a constitution designed for the state's industrialized society was adopted. Half a century later another constitutional convention met, debated for over two years and drew up an organic act that was voted down by the people in 1922. More recent attempts have been made, but without avail, to change this eighty-year-old constitution.

THE MOST POWERFUL "atom-smasher" yet built is the 300-million-volt betatron at the University of Illinois, hailed as the key to many future discoveries.





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